

channel it into effective contact tracing which Mark Fitzgerald's paper in the same issue of the journal<sup>2</sup> shows to be an area in which the UK genitourinary service is underperforming.

In this clinic we routinely perform tests of cure on all patients with gonorrhoea but I firmly believe that we should continue to assess even our most ingrained practices and ensure that if at all possible they are evidence based.

GARY BROOK

Department of Genito-Urinary Medicine,  
Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust,  
Acton Lane, Park Royal,  
London NW10 7NS

1 Carne CA. Epidemiological treatment and tests of cure in gonococcal infection: evidence for value. *Genitourin Med* 1997;73:12-5.

2 Fitzgerald M. Can the management of gonorrhoea be improved? *Genitourin Med* 1997;73:3-4.

## MSSVD

### Additions to MSSVD Library 1996

Keyes, Edward L. *Urology. Diseases of the urinary organs, diseases of the male genital organs, the venereal diseases*. New York & London, Appleton & Co, 1917. The long account of gonorrhoea in this book gives an excellent description of its presentation and management in the USA at the time.

Clare, Peter. *A practical treatise on the gonorrhoea, with a brief account of the remedies which have been used in Lues Venerea*. Clare was a surgeon working in London. This book contains his views on treating gonorrhoea by urethral injections, a method he had devised for the treatment of syphilis by oral applications of calomel ointment, and a collection of letters between Clare and his patients. Turnbull, William. *A letter to Mr Clare*. Turnbull was a naval surgeon, and in this letter he discussed the value of Clare's mercurial treatment on board ship. This little book is a delight to read.

McDonnell, Robert. *Lectures and essays in the science and practice of surgery. Part 1. Clinical lectures on venereal diseases*. Dublin, Fannin & Co, 1871. The influence of the great Irish venereologists, Colles, Carmichael, and Wallace, is evident, particularly in the long discussion of the treatment of syphilis, which is conservative.

Noguchi, Hideyo. *Serum diagnosis of syphilis, 2nd ed*. Philadelphia & London, J B Lipincott, 1911. Noguchi was a pathologist, working in New York. The book was published five years after the original description of the Wassermann reaction, and contains much detail of the early studies of syphilis serology.

Lee, Henry. *Statistical analysis of 166 cases of secondary syphilis observed at the Lock Hospital*. London, Richards, 1849. The author argues that the treatment of primary syphilis with mercury is effective in preventing secondary syphilis, but only if this is prolonged and thorough.

Innes Williams, David. *The London Lock. A charitable hospital for venereal diseases, 1746-1952*. This is a detailed and entertaining account of the staff and activities of this famous hospital during the years of its existence.

McDonagh, J E R. *The biology and treatment of venereal diseases*. London, Harrison & Sons, 1915. This is a comprehensive text,

with far more detail of current beliefs on the pathology and microbiology of the diseases than was usual at the time.

Falck, Nicolai Detlef. *A treatise on the venereal disease*. London, Law, 1774. This is a scarce work. Little is known about the author, who seems to have practised in London. The book opens with an illustrated description of genital anatomy. The account of aetiology and clinical features which follows is conventional; like most of his contemporaries, Falck was a unicist. His treatment was conservative, but he wrote in a discursive and almost holistic style which makes the chapters on management of particular interest.

*The MSSVD Historical Library is kept in the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE.*

J D ORIEL  
Honorary librarian

## BOOK REVIEW

**Genital Skin Disorders. A Guide to Non-Sexually Transmitted Conditions**. Edited by RINO CERIO. London: Chapman & Hall Medical, 1995. (Pp 96; £75.) ISBN 0412-55020-2.

Although atlases of vulval disease and skin manifestations of HIV are available, there is little catering, in a general way, for the needs of genitourinary physicians wishing an overview of the skin diseases they may encounter. This book goes part way to addressing that need.

This is a slim, well presented volume with glossy, illustrated pages, that attempts to appeal to a wide audience. In doing so it may have become too simplistic for genitourinary physicians. For example, in the chapter on normal variants of genital anatomy it states "the testes lie in the scrotum". However, other chapters are much more detailed, as well as being written in a clear, informative style. Numerous illustrations and concise tables (especially the table listing common genital skin disorders) make this a useful and enjoyable book to read.

The title is slightly misleading as, in addition to the chapters covering genital ulcers, melanocytic lesions, tumours, and other genital lesions, cutaneous manifestations of HIV disease are also included, suggesting a bias towards dermatology for genitourinary physicians. Genital warts are also mentioned, as are molluscum, scabies, and pediculosis pubis and, although important, they do not necessarily fall under the subtitle of "A guide to non-sexually transmitted conditions". Other topics include diseases of the skin appendages, autoimmune and bullous conditions, and systemic diseases affecting the genital skin, and a useful chapter on the psychosocial aspects of genital skin disease.

Despite these criticisms, the book covers the range of dermatology which a genitourinary physician might expect to see and is provided with a comprehensive index, so "dipping in" is easy. Unfortunately, the price seems high for such a slim volume (which has frequent typographical errors), and this may persuade readers to opt for a more comprehensive dermatological text.

SARAH EDWARDS

## NOTICES

### ISBS Symposium on Skin Imaging, 16-18 April 1997

The International Society for Bioengineering and the Skin will hold a symposium on skin imaging in Casablanca, Morocco. Further details: Christiane Grillier-Maryse Graner, Service Congrès, Université de Franche-Comté, 1 rue Claude Goudimel, F-25030 Besançon, France. Tel: +33 3 81 66 58 10; Fax: +33 3 81 66 58 12; email: cgrillier@univ-fcomte.fr

### Second International Conference on Nutrition and HIV Infection, 23-25 April, 1997, Cannes France

Further details: Dr Thierry Saint Marc, Pavillon P, Hôpital E Herriot, 69437 Lyon Cedex 03, France. Tel 33-72-11-01-95; Fax 33-72-33-00-44.

### Integrated Sexual Health Services. A model for the future? 30 April 1997

A one day conference to share the experiences of setting up and running an integrated sexual health service. The conference will be held at the Post Graduate Medical Centre, Wexham Park Hospital, Slough, Berkshire on Wednesday 30 April 1997. Further details: Val Britton, Sexual Health Service, The Garden Clinic, Upton Hospital, Slough, Berks SL1 2BJ. Tel: 01753 635603; Fax: 01753 536938.

### 97th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, 4-8 May, 1997, Miami Beach, Florida, USA

Further details: American Society for Microbiology (ASM), Meetings Dept, 1325 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005-4171, USA. Tel 202-942-9297 or 202-942-9206; Fax 202-942-9267.

### 9th Conference on the Social Aspects of AIDS, 10 May, 1997, London

Further details: Michael Stephens, SIGMA Research, Eurolink Centre, 49 Effra Road, London SW1 1BZ. Tel +44 171 7376223; Fax +44 171 7377898.

### 3rd International Conference on Home and Community Care for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, 21-24 May, 1997, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Further details: Bureau PAOG, Ms Mariska Timmers/Mr Clemens Walta, Tafelbergweg 25, 1105 BC, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Tel +31 20 566 4801; Fax +31 20 696 3228.

### 8th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease, 25-28 May, 1997, Lausanne, Switzerland

Further details: Administrative Secretariat, c/o AKM Congress Service, PO Box, CH-4005 Basel, Switzerland. Tel +41 61 691 51 11; Fax +41 61 691 81 89.

### 18th Annual Congress of the European Society of Mycobacteriology (ESM-97), 17-18 June, 1997, Cordoba, Spain

Further details: Congress Secretariat of ESM-97 and ISM-97, Vincit International Agency, Plaza de Espana no LIST18, Torre de Madrid, Planta no 10, 28008 Madrid, Spain. Tel 34-1-5590426; Fax 34-1-5592505.